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# ASSOCIATION OF

# SOUTHERN

# CALIFORNIA



## The NASC Quarterly

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2000 / NUMBER 1



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# THE NASC QUARTERLY

Official Publication of the Numismatic Association of Southern California  
2000 / Volume 42 / Number 1

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# Calendar of Events

## *Coin & Collectible Shows*

June 8 - 11  
Long Beach

**L B Coin and Collectible Expo**  
Convention Center  
100 S. Pine Ave.

April 30  
Arcadia

**Covina Coin Club Coin-o-rama**  
Masonic Temple  
50 W. Duarte Rd.

May 28  
June 25  
July 23  
Anaheim

**North County Monthly Show**  
Embassy Suites Hotel  
3100 Frontera St.  
(91 at Glassell St.)

July 8 & 9  
San Diego

**Coinarama 2000**  
Scottish Rite Center  
Mission Valley

July 15 & 16  
Santa Barbara

**42<sup>nd</sup> Coin & Collectibles Show**  
Earl Warren Showgrounds  
US Hwy 101 at Las Positas Rd.

August 26 & 27  
Arcadia

**Golden State Coin Show**  
Masonic Temple  
50 W. Duarte Rd.

## 2000 NASC Board Meetings

(Information not available at press time)



Ad correction: In the 1994 #4 issue, the area codes were incorrect on William Fragner's quarter page ad due to a computer operator error.



## Editor's Note:

### Late, Late & Late!

Those three words above describe the last issue of *The NASC Quarterly*. You may have other words for it, but we will go with the above description. Almost everyone was late, relative to the December 1<sup>st</sup> due date, including myself. It must have been the holiday season.

Things got worse as time went on. Our printer in Savannah, Georgia was swamped with work, as up to half of his work crew was out ill. Weather back there was cold and nasty. Your magazines or journals did not reach the Savannah U.S. Postal Office until around February 1<sup>st</sup> or there about. J.T. Stanton responded and sent a box of forty *Quartlerlies* by Federal Express (his expense) just in time for the banquet on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

Four weeks later they started showing up in members' mail boxes. Four weeks in the mail! It could have been worse, as bulk mail can take up to six weeks if the workload is heavy, we are told. Four weeks is way too much time for any mail.

For this issue the NASC Board meeting dates and location, President's Message, and the Club Report will be absent ... as you have probably noticed. Why? The due date of March 1<sup>st</sup> passed over three weeks ago without receipt of the necessary information in time for publication. We had to move forward on the issue.

Hopefully, we will get "on track" next time and get the journal out faster. We plan to send the next issue to the publisher one week after the June 1<sup>st</sup> due date, printing what we have at the time. If you would like to submit articles or write a column, please don't hesitate to speak up. How can you help? Contact the editor by E-mail ([beedon@earthlink.net](mailto:beedon@earthlink.net)) or by snail mail. We need you!

Late breaking news: It has been reported by friends via the internet that Ethel Lenhert has suffered a severe stroke. We all hope she recovers soon.

Gary Beedon, Editor



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CCPNA, CSNS, FUN, NASC, SIN

# "Meet Me in St. Louis, Meet Me at the Fair"

Albert K. Hall

The purpose of the Louisiana Purchase - 1904 Exposition was to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase, "Second in importance in our nations development only to the American-Revolution." Since St. Louis was the Territorial Capital in 1804, the civic leaders campaigned vigorously to secure the celebration for their fair city.

David R. Francis, the former governor and St. Louis Mayor is credited with the celebration being held in St. Louis.

On December 20, 1803 the Louisiana Purchase was completed as ownership of the territory was formally transferred from France to the United States during ceremonies in New Orleans.

Congress funded the Louisiana Purchase Exposition to the tune of \$5,000,000 or one third of the original purchase price. The Exposition's management requested that part of this appropriation be made in the form of gold dollars, an obsolete denomination, and so 250,000 commemorative gold dollars were authorized on June 28, 1802 by Public Law 182 of the 57th Congress.



In commemoration, two gold dollar varieties were struck by the Philadelphia Mint which are sometimes referred to as the "Jefferson and McKinley" dollars.

The head of Jefferson was chosen because he was president when the Louisiana Territory was purchased from France for \$15,000,000. The portrait, facing left, was copied from a mint medal designed from life by John Reich, Assistant Engraver to the U. S. Mint from April 1, 1807 to March 31, 1817.



President William McKinley was selected because he sanctioned the Exposition with a law of March, 1901 and the fact that he was assassinated on September 6, 1901 at the Pan American Exposition in Buffalo, New York.

The common reverse has LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION around the upper three fourths of the border, with ST. LOUIS at the lower border. In the upper half of the circle formed by these two legends is the denomination in two lines, ONE DOLLAR. In the lower half of the circle are the commemorative dates, again in two lines, 1803-1903. Above and to the right of the dates is a small olive branch, to separate the dates from the denomination.

The Philadelphia Mint struck 75,080 pieces in December of 1902 and 175,178 pieces in January 1903, all dated 1903 for a total mintage of 250,258 coins. It is thought the 258 coins were assay specimens that never left the Mint is interesting to note that shortly after these 250,000 coins were released, 250 of them were returned to the mint and melted. It is thought these coins may have been errors, or damaged in handling.

Somehow (the details which have never been made Public) a coin dealer in Oregon secured some 1904 and 1905 gold dollars before the fair opened and offered them for sale. The money derived from these sales was used to complete the bronze memorial of Sacagawea, a.k.a. Mrs. Toussaint Charbonneau. She was the guide and interpreter for the Corps of Discovery and Indian Tribes they encountered during their expedition. Beside the quantity turned over to the Oregon dealer, those unsold at the exposition were returned to the mint and melted.

Souvenirs of the exposition were many, of all sizes, shapes, forms. Shown below are some of the popular items.





Reverse: Relief map of U.S. showing extent of La. Territory, above is spread-winged eagle atop twin draped flags; two seated female figures below map with oval seal between containing serial number of individual coin. Beaded border.

During the Exposition a St. Louis concern calling itself the Louisiana Purchase Souvenir Coin Co. issued two types of souvenir coins, or medals, as a private promotional scheme. The first one issued was round and less than 25,000 were struck. The second one was octagonal, of which over 25,000 were struck. The first type was sold for 50 cents each and entitled the purchaser to guess on total paid admissions and the one guessing the nearest correct number to win \$50,000.00. This embarrassed the Exposition officials and they had to publish statements in the press that the company was not connected with the exposition. The head of Louis IX on the obverse resembles the head of Isabella on the 25-cent piece of 1893. The company went broke and the octagonal pieces were not delivered, but private dealers bought them from the makers and sold them as souvenir

#### PIN-BACK CELLULOID BUTTONS



Left Button: *MISSOURI* above Missouri State Building in 1904, 33mm. Paper label insert in back inscribed: *Made by F. F. Pulver Co., Rochester, N.Y.*

Right Button: Flag of Exposition in center. Inscription above: *Louisiana Purchase Exposition*

Below: 1904 World's Fair U.S.A. - Label insert in back inscribed: Buttons made by Whitehead and Hoag, Newark, N.J. U.S.A. April 14, 1896 - July 21, 1896.

## STICKPINS



A linkage suspends an eagle at the top of pin from a medallion. Reverse of medallion shows military bust of President Theodore Roosevelt. Obverse has flag of Exposition and inscription: World's Fair Dedication 1903, 19 mm.

Many of the gold dollars were made into stickpins, charms, bangles, etc. therefore destroying their numismatic value because the findings were soldered onto the gold coins. Others were sold with separate mountings into which the coins could be harmlessly inserted. Still others were mounted in souvenir spoons.

Packaging or no, the sale of the coins languished with only some 35,000 being sold in all, presumably in equal numbers of each type.

Of the total mintage, the first 100 of each type were brilliant proofs. They were originally distributed in large cardboard pages with certificates signed by J. M. Landis, Superintendent, and Rhine R. Freed, Coiner, Philadelphia Mint. Each was certified to be one of the first hundred pieces coined of the issue; each had a penciled serial number at one corner. A matched pair, one of each type, in the original holder of issue was offered at \$17,500 in the late 1970s.

The exposition closed at midnight on December 1, 1904. The day was decreed as "Francis Day" to honor the president of this great world's fair.

Reference:

*So-Called Dollars* by Hibler/Kappen, 1963.

# An Historical Summary of Sacagawea

United States Mint/Internet

In July 1998 Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin accepted the recommendation of a citizens advisory committee and announced his decision that the new one-dollar coin bear the image of Sacagawea. While many in our generation are unfamiliar with the story of the young Shoshone woman who played a critical role in the Lewis and Clark expedition, Sacagawea has been well known to other generations of Americans. Our grandparents and their parents knew Sacagawea, and according to the historian Dayton Duncan, honored Sacagawea with more statues in this country than any other American woman. And our children know Sacagawea, as her story is taught in classrooms across the nation. Stephen Ambrose's 1996 book "Undaunted Courage" and Ken Burns' 1997 PBS program on the Lewis and Clark expedition have simply recovered her memory to our generation.

While not a great deal is known about the young woman, what we do know is remarkable. At about the age of 11 she was captured by a Hidatsa raiding party and taken from her Shoshone tribe. She was subsequently bought (or possibly won in a bet) from the Hidatsa by the French-Canadian trader, Toussaint Charbonneau, who made her his wife. Historical information as to when Charbonneau took Sacagawea as his wife is sketchy and sometimes inconsistent. The Lewis and Clark journals specifically refer to Sacagawea as Charbonneau's wife in an entry dated November 4, 1804.

Earlier that year, when Sacagawea was about 15 and six months pregnant, Charbonneau was hired by Captains Lewis and Clark, not so much for his own skills but for those of Sacagawea. She knew several Indian languages, and being Shoshone, could help Lewis and Clark make contact with her people and acquire horses that were crucial to the success of the mission. Even more remarkable, the Lewis and Clark journals subsequently refer to the birth of her firstborn baby in an entry dated February 11, 1805. Sacagawea would go on to play an integral role in the Lewis and



Clark expedition, all the while carrying and caring for her infant son — a working mother.

In fact Sacagawea did help Lewis and Clark find the Shoshone and trade for the horses they needed. But her contribution far exceeded anything Lewis and Clark had bargained for. She provided crucial knowledge of the topography of some of the most rugged country of North America and taught the explorers how to find edible roots and plants previously unknown to European-Americans. With her infant son bound to her back, she single-handedly rescued Captain Clark's journals from the Missouri whitewater when their boat capsized. If she had not, much of the record of the first year of the expedition would have been lost to history. Most crucially, however, Sacagawea and her infant served as a "white flag" of peace for the expedition, which was as much a military expedition as a scientific one. They entered potentially hostile territory well armed but undermanned compared to the Native American tribes they met. Because no war party was ever accompanied by a woman and infant, the response of the Native Americans was curiosity, not aggression. They talked first, and Sacagawea often served as the translator. Not a single member of the party was lost to hostile action.

It is worth noting that Clark wrote with a tone of regret to Charbonneau that Sacagawea "who accompanied you that long dangerous and fatiguing rout to the Pacific Ocean and back disserved a greater reward for her attention and services on that rout than we had in our power to give her [sic]." Clark's sense of indebtedness to Sacagawea is reflected in his accepting, a few years later, responsibility for educating Sacagawea's son and, after Sacagawea's death at the age of 25, for a daughter as well.

The story of Sacagawea is rich with the symbols and values that make our nation great. It is fitting and proper that after almost 200 years, we repay this national debt in the coin of the realm Sacagawea helped define.

### Sacagawea or Sacajawea?

Various historians disagree over the pronunciation, meaning—either "Boat Launcher" or "Bird Woman", and spelling of her name — listed as either Sacagawea or Sacajawea, as well as a few other spellings, but all agree that her bravery and fortitude were

instrumental to the success of Lewis & Clark's "Corps of Discovery."

While the records of the United States Mint do not contain specific references to expedition of Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, and the "Corps of Discovery", we have decided to use the spelling "SACAGAWEA" for our new dollar coin, based on several contemporary works on this topic.

To quote from a recent publication: "...Translated, her name means 'Bird Woman,' and in their attempts to spell the Indians words, Lewis and Clark used variations of 'Sah-ca-gah-we-ah' and 'Sah-kah-gar-we-a.' (In 1814, when a version of the journals appeared, an editor changed the spelling to Sacajawea, which was the preferred spelling until recently, when most historians and official publications reverted back to Sacagawea.)" (Source: *Lewis & Clark. The Journey of the Corps of Discovery. An Illustrated History*, by Dayton Duncan and Ken Burns. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1997. Page 92.)



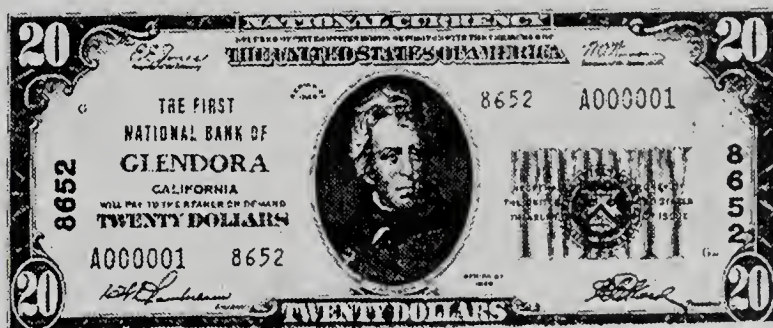
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# A Token With a Personal Connection

William Cregan

Not long ago I bought an unusual \$5 token issued by a grocery store in Santa Ana, California in 1915. I wanted this piece for two reasons. The first was because of its high face value and because Santa Ana is only a few miles from my home and where I have spent almost my entire working life. What I didn't realize at the time was the concealed, personal connection this token would have with my past.

The source of this unusual token was a coin show situated in a plain looking and isolated hotel next to the Santa Ana river. It was a strange place for a coin show; there was nothing near it except a parts yard for old Oldsmobile automobiles and a languishing restaurant just up the road. By contrast the interior of the hotel was very elegant. A skylight with a huge central courtyard lighted it, with the rooms on each floor grouped around it. It reminded me of old pictures I had seen of the interior of the Old Palace Hotel in San Francisco, and the International Hotel in Virginia City, Nevada. Clearly, this special setting produced a fun and memorable coins show unlike any I had ever experienced before.

The show was located in one of the meeting rooms located in a hallway just off of the enormous skylit lobby. Inside there were many dealers I hadn't seen in a long time. I enjoyed examining their interesting selections of United States and foreign coins.

I particularly enjoyed the selections of a retired dealer who had operated a coin shop in Santa Ana for many years. I remembered the pleasant time I spent in his shop, because of its mixture of coins, tokens, medals, old books, magazines and antiques. He is still interested and active in the hobby,



and is a member of our local coin club. In his display case was a token that concentrated my attention and I bought it immediately. It was a little larger in diameter than a half dollar, was made of bronze, and read, "Star Grocery, \$5, Santa Ana." On the opposite side was "In Trade, \$5, Ingle System." The patent date was obscured by corrosion, but it was likely 1914.

The retired dealer did not have any information on the piece, except to say that he had owned it for many years and that it was unlisted in the token reference books at his disposal. He believed the item to be unique.

Seeking information on this interesting token I went to the Local History Room of the Santa Ana Library and examined the old city directories published between 1913 and 1920. The Star Grocery was first listed in the 1915 directory. The proprietor was Bert Wallace, and its address was 321 W. Fourth St. He and his wife Cora lived about six blocks away at 816 W. Walnut St. Wallace's employee or partner was B.W. Veale who lived at 918 W. Pine St., about a block over from where Wallace lived. In the 1916 directory, Veale's name was gone from the Star Market listing. By 1918 the Star Grocery was also gone, its location now occupied by a sewing machine shop. Wallace continued in the grocery business in a new store at 601 N. Main St. In May 1918 Wallace's wife Cora died. He apparently closed his grocery business for good and left town, or could have died in the flu epidemic of that year, for his name is missing from subsequent directories.

Wallace likely had his \$5 tokens made for the farmers who came to town to sell their produce. Santa Ana, like many thriving towns in California at this time, was a thriving agricultural center. Once a week the farmers came to town in their wagons to sell produce to the grocers that included oranges, apples, walnuts, and tomatoes. The five-dollar token was likely given to the farmer as an incentive not to take badly needed cash. Instead of taking say, four dollars

cash in exchange for his produce, the farmer could pick the token and take \$5 in goods from the store anytime he wanted. The odd thing about this token is that it is still outstanding, or that Wallace misplaced it after it had been tendered, which is more plausible.

My connection to Star Grocery is that it was situated in one of my favorite sections of the city along old West Fourth St. Many years ago, a three block strip of this street was razed to accommodate the expanding Orange County, California, Civic Center. When I learned that the classic early 1900's brick buildings were to be demolished, I photographed them. It was as a reminder of the pleasant memories I had there walking past the old hotels with their vintage neon signs, visiting the old junk and book shops, browsing in the hotel newsstands and the beers I sipped at the old "Dutch Lunch" restaurant, which was next to the original site of the Star Grocery. The people I met there were always so pleasant, interesting, and natural and had operated small businesses along the faded old street of original red sandstone and brick buildings for many years.

The \$5 Star Grocery token has a special place in my Southern California token collection because of its close and personal connection. No matter where you live, and what you do, maybe you collect in the same manner. Collectors have that peculiar trait of acquiring, organizing, and researching those numismatic items that make a personal statement, and this is one of the urges that make us collectors. ♣

**1999 NASC Medals Still Available!**

Contact Harold Katzman for information.

# MILLENNIUM 2000

## Recognition Dinner

Mary Beedon

Outgoing president G. Lee Kuntz welcomed NASC members and their guests to the club's recognition dinner held February fifth at Coco's in Arcadia. The yearly dinner is held to install officers, present awards and to recognize those who have contributed to the success of the Association. Coco's again provided a mouthwatering selection of food that was enjoyed by all.

The Master of Ceremonies, Bill Pannier, kept the attendees entertained and the program moving at a steady pace. Ethel Lenhert conducted the awards part of the evening. Gary Beedon presented the 1999 NASC Quarterly Contributor Plaques and the Karl M. Brainard Memorial Literary Awards. Lee Kuntz gave out the President's Award for the best club newsletter and the 25-year membership pins. Recipients of the pins at the event were Gary Beedon, Bill Grant and the Leisure World Coin Club. The balance were to be mailed.

Helen Carmody-Lebo, ANA Vice-president, was the installation officer. Star Trek enthusiast and now newly installed President Harold Katzman announced the theme for his presidency: *Numismatics, the Ultimate Hobby*.

Winding up the business end of the party, Lee Kuntz, now a past-president, thanked those who had helped him during his tenure and announced the Member of the Year award has been named in honor of the late Paul Borack.

Thelma Katzman and Joyce Kuntz ended the festivities by awarding the door prizes. These included teddy bears decorated by Thelma who also did the centerpieces. They were great!

Thanks to everyone who worked to make the evening a success.

**Paul Borack Member of the Year Award:** Phil Iversen.

**Karl M. Brainard Memorial Literary Award:** (1<sup>st</sup>) The Story Of Some Missing Large Cents, Dr. Thomas F. Fitzgerald; (2<sup>nd</sup>) The

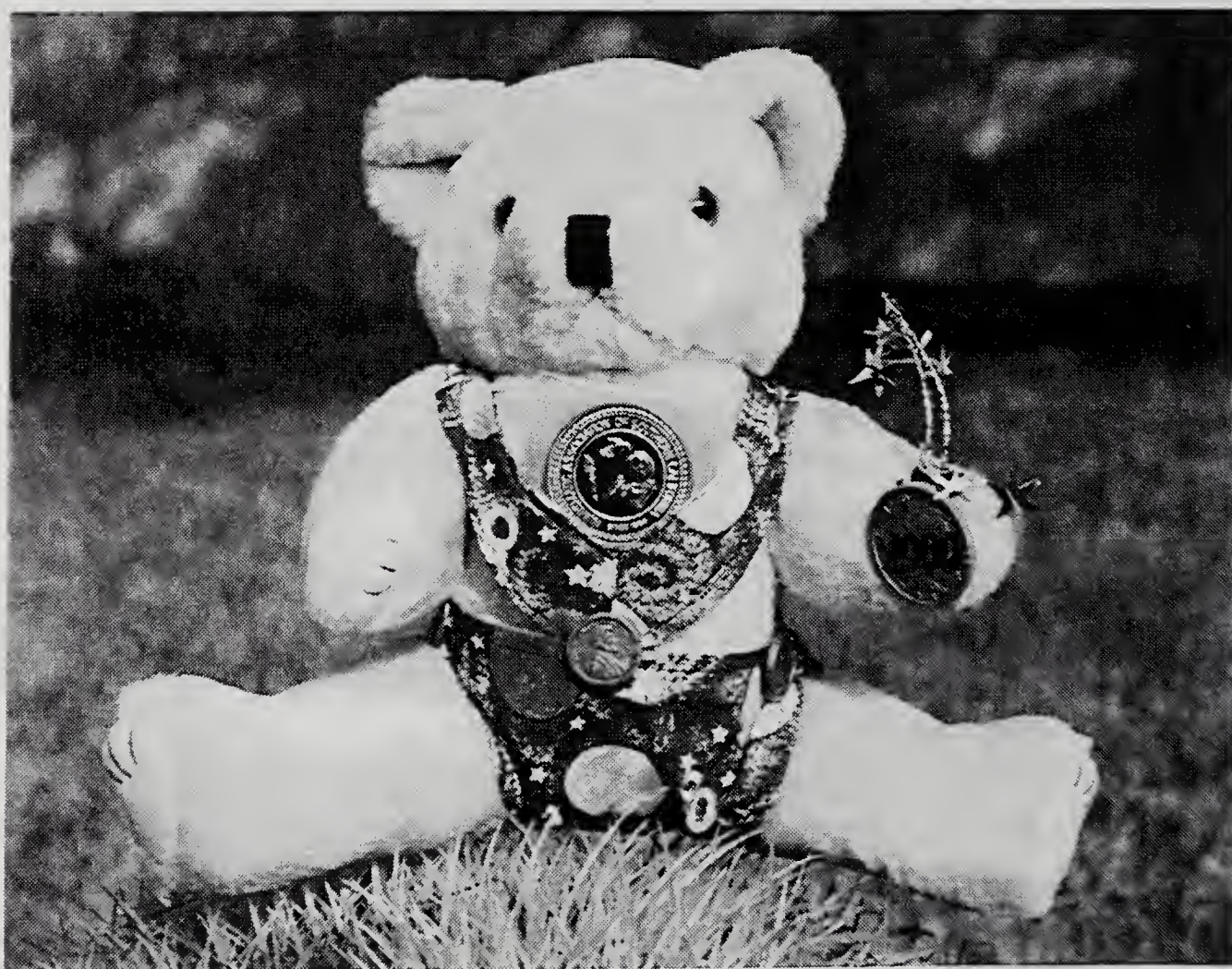


Aztec And Their Calendar Stone, Virginia Hall; (3<sup>rd</sup>) Kettle & Sons U.S. Gold Replica Gaming Tokens, Murray Singer.

**President's Award for the Best Club Newsletter:** (1<sup>st</sup>) Glendale Coin Club - *The Glen Coin News*; (2<sup>nd</sup>) Upland Coin Club - *Upland Coin Talk*; (3<sup>rd</sup>) Covina Coin Club - *Covina Coin News*.

**1999 NASC Quarterly Contributors:** William Cregan, Mary Beedon, Don and Terry Foster, Marlin Lenhert, Dr. Sol Taylor, Dr. Thomas F. Fitzgerald, Harold Katzman, G. Lee Kuntz, Dr. Walter Ostromecki, Jr., Michael Ontko, Jerry Lebo, Virginia Hall, and Jerry Yahalom.

**Charter Members in Attendance:** Harold and Leonora Donald, Jack Reberry and G. Lee Kuntz.



One of Thelma Katzman's special Banquet Teddy Bears used as an accent on one of the tables. NASC medal added for picture.





**Master of Ceremony Bill Pannier addresses the banquet attendees.**

## **Photographs of the 2000 NASC Awards Banquet 2-5-00**

**Are you in this picture?**







**ANA Vice-President Helen Carmody-Lebo installs Harold Katzman as new NASC President.**

**Jack Reberry (Charter Member #14) and his wife.**







**G. Lee Kuntz presents an award to Joyce Kuntz for doing special work.**



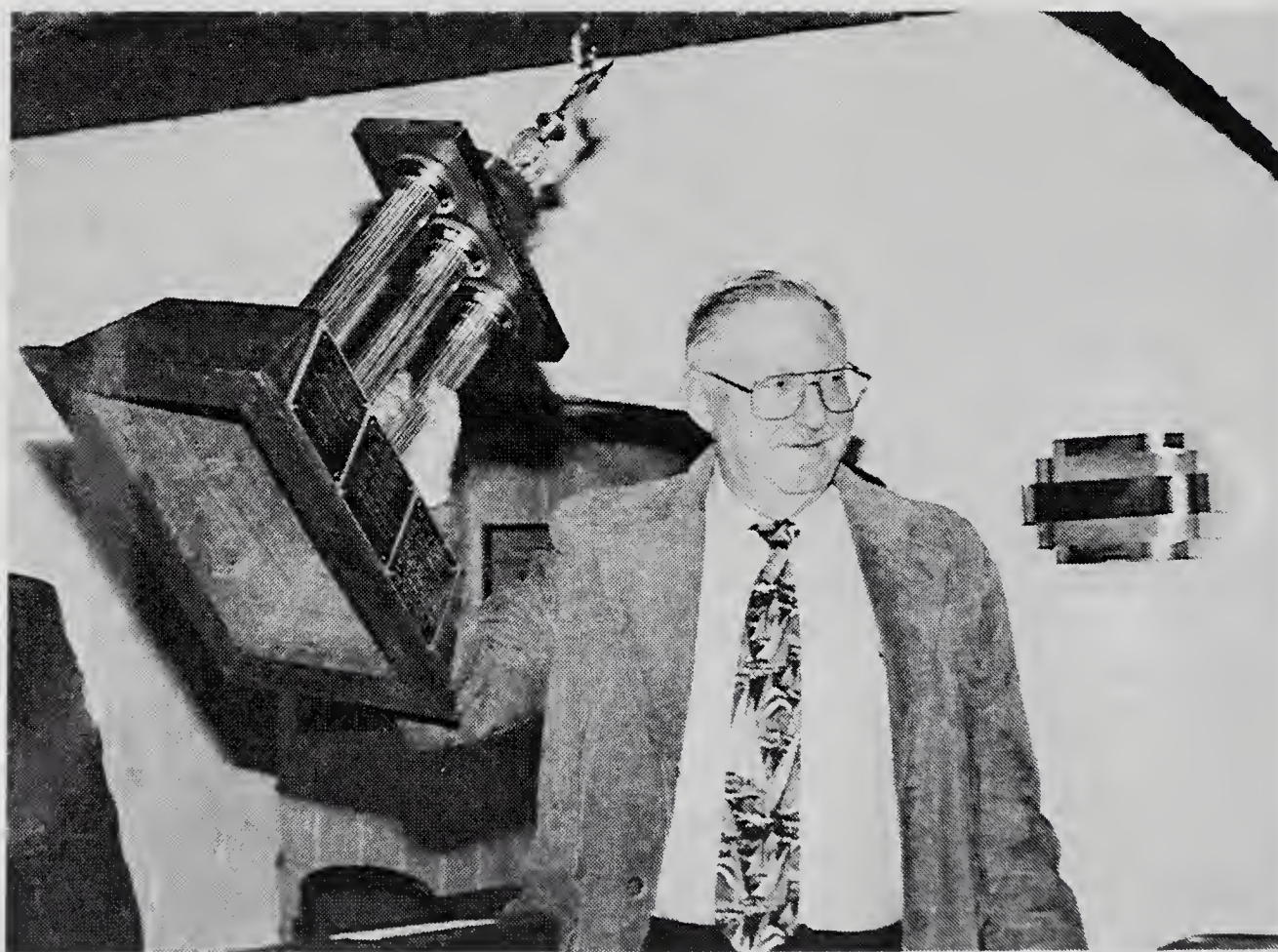
**Editor Gary Beedon presents  
1<sup>st</sup> place Karl M. Brainard  
Memorial Literary Award to  
Dr. Thomas F. Fitzgerald.**





**Phil Iversen receives Paul Borack Member of the Year Award from G. Lee Kuntz.**

**Jerry Yahalom accepts the President's Trophy for editor Greg Burns for best club bulletin (GlenCoin News).**





## 2000 – 2002 NASC Officers and Board ( L to R)

Sagi Soloman (B), Roy Iwata (B), Jerry Yahalom (B), Joyce Kuntz (B), G. Lee Kuntz (B), Phil Iversen (VP), Harold Katzman (P), Walter Ostromecki (CS), Al Hoogetveen (RS), Kay Lenker (T), and Leonora Donald (H)





# Knowledge Pays Off in Collecting

*A story to show your non-collecting friends*

S. PORTER LOGAN

Do you believe those old coins you found stashed away in your grandparent's home are worth the price of a new car? Did you buy "rare" coins from somebody only to find out later they're not worth nearly what you paid? If the answer to either question is "yes," you probably don't know a whole lot about rare coins.

I don't know how many times somebody has brought me some Indian Head cents dated in the 1900s, hoping they're valuable. Well, folks, they're worth anywhere from 25 cents each on up to \$20 or more. But to command the top prices, they have to be in the same condition a brand new Lincoln Cent would be as it leaves the U.S. Mint.

By and large, the old coins found by today's generation in the home of a deceased parent or grandparent turn out to be not exceedingly valuable. Certainly there are exceptions to this rule, but generally these newly discovered old coins wouldn't buy you a car or a chicken farm.

Coin designs no longer being minted are worth more than their face value obviously, but the actual worth is determined by several factors. Most important are the coin's condition and its rarity.

Buffalo nickels, the predecessor of the Jefferson nickel, can be worth anywhere from 6 cents to hundreds of dollars. Silver and gold coins can be worth their intrinsic value on up.

So how do you determine a coin's worth? Unfortunately, there are no easy answers. You need either to educate yourself about coins or find a coin dealer or collector you feel you can trust.

By and large, the coin dealer who's been in business for a number of years has earned a reputation of honesty. Otherwise, his or her shop would be out of business. Still, longevity isn't a guarantee.

One test of a dealer is to buy a few relatively inexpensive coins and try to sell them to other dealers. But don't expect to be offered the amount you paid. Dealers are in business to pay the rent and show a profit. If you are consistently offered prices within 10 to 20 percent of what you paid in the first place, chances are you've found a reliable dealer. If you're being offered far less, you need to change dealers. If by some chance you're offered more, sell and go back to that original dealer and buy more. Take your profits as best you can. However, that's not likely to be the case.

Let me pause for a moment to make a sales pitch. You might want to consider membership in several organizations, such as the American Numismatic Association and-or our own Indiana State Numismatic Association. Of course, there are numerous local clubs you could join. They usually offer a brief business meeting, an educational program and an auction.

Almost every numismatic authority will tell you that knowledge is the key to success in our hobby-industry. That includes knowledge about rarity and condition of a coin, as well as its historic value.

Virtually every coin ever minted has a historic story to tell. I'll tell one in this limited space. In 1883 the United States issued a new 5-cent coin but neglected to use the word "cents." Instead, the Roman numeral "V" was used on the reverse. It didn't take long for con men to gold plate these coins and pass them as \$5 gold pieces, which were about the same size.

One of the people arrested for doing this was a fellow named Joshua Tatum. His defense: he was only having fun; just kidding. Legend has it that from this case comes the expression "I was just joshin' you."

Well, that's a legend, which means it might or might not be true. But generally numismatic stories are accurate and based on fact.

You can only get these facts and other information about true coin values by getting involved in a coin organization and by reading up on the subject. There are numerous excellent reference books and periodicals available.

The basic book is the "Red Book," formally titled "A Guide Book of United States Coins.



There are two weekly newspapers for coin collectors: Numismatic News, 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990, and Coin World, P.O. Box 150, Sidney, OH 45365.

Certainly there are many other reference books and publications, but these are considered the basic ones. If you're educated about coins, you'll know to shy away from certain telemarketers and newspaper ads. For example, would you buy three Morgan dollars in "good" condition for \$100? "Good" is one of the lowest grades possible. Three common-date Morgans in "good" would be worth less than \$30 total.

That's not to say all telemarketers and newspaper ads are rip-offs. But, quite frankly, there's a problem in our hobby-industry with people trying to take advantage of the non-numismatic public.

I've used the term "hobby-industry" a couple of times here. "Hobby" refers primarily to people who collect coins for the enjoyment of it. "Industry" refers to people who invest in coins in hopes of achieving a profit.

Both groups tend to co-exist, and a lot of people belong to both. Regardless of whether you're in the "hobby," "industry" or both, you need knowledge if you're going to be involved in numismatics. Of course, that starts with learning to pronounce the word!

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# Lincoln Cent Series

## Popular For Beginners

S. Porter Logan

Many a coin collector has started his numismatic career assembling sets of one-cent pieces, then evolved into other things.

Although there are some expensive coins in the Lincoln cent series, it also offers the beginning collector a usually economical way to get starting in the hobby.

A later-dated Lincoln Memorial set can pretty much be assembled from coins found in circulation. It might take a little looking for some of the earlier dates and some of the "s" mint marked coins, but they're generally still out there in circulation.

The "wheat" cents of 1909-1958 are another matter, of course. Few are found in circulation but all are readily available from dealers, and most at a reasonable price.

Of course, the "key" coins in the series are another matter financially. And we'll start with the granddaddy of the Lincoln keys: the 1909-S VDB.

Only 484,000 of these coins were minted at San Francisco in the first year of production, making them rather scarce but still obtainable (for a hefty price.) The VDB stands for Victor David Brenner, who designed the original Lincoln cent. However, that wasn't even his real name.

Born Victoras Barnaukas, he Americanized his name when he immigrated to the United States from Lithuania. A medallist, Brenner won a commission to portray President Theodore Roosevelt on a Panama Canal medal. He became a friend of the president and was eventually commissioned to design a new one-cent coin featuring Abraham Lincoln.

Once production began, there was sufficient public protest over the presence of the VDB initials on the reverse that the mint removed them. That created two varieties of Lincolns for 1909, with the San Francisco initialed coins emerging with the smallest production. The initials were added to the obverse in 1918 and continue in use today.

There are other keys in the series, and we'll discuss them briefly. But be warned: there are also counterfeits on the market. Before you pay a hefty price for a coin, make sure it's authentic. Most dealers can tell the difference. There also are authentication services.

The 1914D (Denver minted) Lincoln is the next key in the series, mainly because of a low mintage (less than 1.2 million.)

The 1922 "plain" actually is a Denver minted coin. No Lincolns were produced that year at the Philadelphia mint, which at that time didn't use a mint mark.

To meet production demands, the Denver mint used dies beyond their normal life span. The "plain" variety was created from a die whose mintmark was worn away from excessive use.

There are at least three varieties of the 1922 plain, but the American Numismatic Association's Authentication Service now recognizes just one. Be sure to consult an expert before you buy a '22 plain.

World War II produced some changes in the Lincoln cent. The traditional bronze composition was scrubbed in 1943 for a zinc-coated steel cent. These corroded easily and were abandoned after 1943.

A few leftover bronze planchets were struck with 1943 dies, creating a rarity that also has been counterfeited. Likewise, there are a few 1944 dated steel cents that command hefty premiums.

You can tell if a coin is steel or bronze by using a magnet. The magnet will attract a steel coin but not a bronze one. Lincolns of 1944 to 1946 were made of metal recovered from military cartridge casings. The composition was still mostly copper but with no tin, only zinc.

The original copper-tin-zinc composition returned in 1947 and remained in use into 1982 when the current copper-plated zinc coins were introduced.

Meanwhile, after 50 years, the basic design of the reverse was changed in 1959 with the introduction of the Lincoln Memorial Cent.

Frank Gasparro designed the memorial reverse. This produced this piece of coin trivia: Lincoln is on both the obverse and reverse. Of course his portrait is the central feature of the obverse, but the memorial on the reverse shows a tiny Lincoln statue.

There are collectors who look for "full steps" on the reverse of the Memorial. Only well struck specimens will have all the steps complete.

Probably one of the most famous error coins comes from the Lincoln series: the 1955 doubled die obverse. There's also a big premium for doubled 1972 Lincolns.

We've touched only the highlights of the series in this article. There are numerous reference books that contain far more extensive information on the Lincoln cent. If you're serious about collecting the series, you will need to visit your library - or better yet, buy the book.

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# Eleven Coin Show Survival Tips

Scott Travers

At his special presentation "Breakfast with the ANA Vice-President, *The Coin Collector's Survival Seminar*" during the ANA World's Fair of Money in Chicago, Scott Travers gave the following advice for success on the bourse floor. He outlined eleven steps to help get a better deal on the dealer on the bourse floor.

1. Know the value (of the coin).
2. Master the use of your emotions.
3. Never bluff and never lie.
4. Let the other party make the first offer.
5. Never make an offer you're uncertain about.
6. Never withdraw the offer once you made it.
7. When making an offer, count out the money or write out a check on the spot.
8. Always assume the position of power.
9. Be flexible and willing to change the conditions of a deal, if you must.
10. Make the other person feel that it is in his or her best interest to make the deal.
11. Don't take the deal personally.

To Scott's list we could add more steps, for example:

1. Do not argue over the grade marked on the coin holder.
2. Choose a time to deal, when the dealer is not busy.
3. If the deal includes several coins, ask for a price on the entire lot.



NASC's Web Site ...

<http://home.earthlink.net/~beedon/nasc.htm>

# Centenary Crown Honours Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother

As a special tribute to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the British Royal Mint has been authorized to issue a superb five-pound coin to honor the centenary of her birth on August 4, 1900. The mint has announced that a cupro-nickel version of the crown, presented in a colourfully illustrated presentation folder is now available to collectors in North America.

Queen Mother  
Centenary Crown



Loved and admired in Britain and around the world, rarely has there been a figure that has served so long in public service, so completely capturing the hearts of so many, as has Britain's Queen Mother. Born at Glamis Castle in Scotland, Lady Elizabeth Angela Marguerite Bowes-Lyon was the ninth child of the 14th Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne. When the Castle was used as a convalescent hospital during the First World War, the youthful Elizabeth took a warm and compassionate interest in the wounded soldiers, even writing letters for them. Slowly she blossomed into the society beauty who was to capture the heart of Prince Albert, the second son of Britain's reigning monarch, King George V.

When they married, there was no thought that Prince Albert would ever be king. That duty would fall to his elder brother who was expected to reign as Edward VIII. The story of Edward's relationship with the American divorcee Wallis Simpson is well documented and the rest is history. However, from 1924, as the



Duke and Duchess of York, the young royal couple gained invaluable experience as they fulfilled many public engagements both in Britain and abroad, including trips to the African Empire and to Australia, where Prince Albert opened Parliament House in the new capital of Canberra in 1927. Upon the death of King George V in 1936 and the subsequent abdication of Edward VIII, Prince Albert was crowned King George VI on May 12, 1937.

The new King and his Queen Consort were the first reigning British monarchs to visit South Africa, Canada, and the United States. Their six-week coast to coast tour of Canada in 1939 concluded with a visit to New York's World Fair as well as a stay with President Franklin D. Roosevelt at his Hyde Park, NY home.

A special bond grew between the Queen Mother and the British people as she and the King remained in London during the Second World War. So often, after a night of heavy bombing during the blitz, they would be seen touring the bomb-damaged areas, talking with people, doing whatever they could to hold up morale. Sadly, after sixteen years on the throne and a prolonged period of ill health, King George VI died on February 6, 1952. As her eighteen-year old daughter came to the throne as Queen Elizabeth II, Queen Consort Elizabeth took on a new role as the Queen Mother, a position she has now held with incredible dignity for almost fifty years.

Always willing to do whatever she could for the people of Britain and the Commonwealth, the Queen Mother met the awesome task of public service with grace, charm and unflinching devotion. For years she worked with undiminished energy and enthusiasm as, even at the age of ninety, she served as patron of some 300 organizations and charities. Now in her 100th year, she remains loved and revered by a nation, grateful for her own love, service and dedication to Britain and its Commonwealth of Nations.

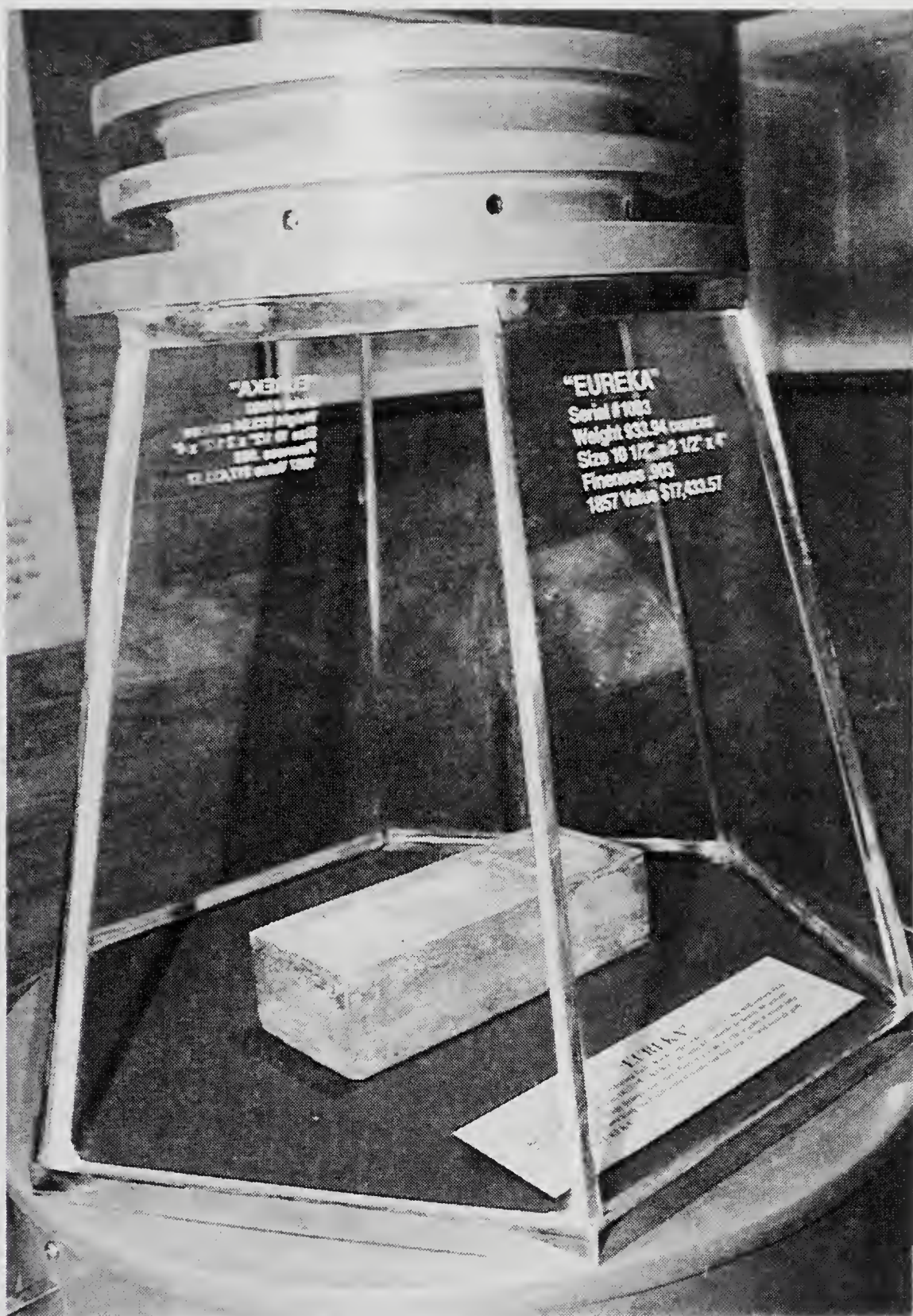
For his superb portrait of the Queen Mother, Ian Rank-Broadley worked from photographs, which Her Majesty graciously allowed to be taken for this special purpose. It is the fourth portrait of Her Majesty to appear on British coinage since she came to the throne in 1952.

Orders and inquiries should be addressed to the British Royal Mint, Cheyenne, WY 82008-0031 or call toll free: (800) 221-1215. Web site: <http://www.royalmint.com>





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**ANCIENT COIN CLUB OF LOS ANGELES (ACCLA)** - Meets 2nd Sunday, 1:30 p.m., Coast Federal Bank, 10101 Riverside Drive, Toluca Lake; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 227, Canoga Park, CA 91305.

**BAY CITIES COIN CLUB (BCCC)** - Meets 2nd Sunday, 2:00 p.m., Santa Monica Public Library, Sixth and Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 943, Santa Monica, CA 90406.

**CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF TOKEN COLLECTORS (CATC)** - Meets 3rd Saturday or Sunday of odd-numbered months, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at members' homes and other locations. Mailing Address: P.O. Box 66331, Los Angeles, CA 90066.

**CALIFORNIA EXONUMIST SOCIETY (CES)** - Meets quarterly at GSCS and CSNA Conventions; All day show in June or July; Mailing Address: 611 Oakwood Way, El Cajon, CA 92021.

**CALIFORNIA STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION (CSNA)** - Meets twice a year during CSNA conventions at various locations; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1746, Upland, CA 91785.

**COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL NUMISMATICS (COIN)** - Meets annually at Golden State Coin Show, plus three board meetings a year; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 6909, San Diego, CA 92166-6909.

**COVINA COIN CLUB (CCC)** - Meets 3rd Wednesday, 7:45 p.m., Covina Park Recreation Hall, 340 Valencia, Covina; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 321, Temple City, CA 91780-0321.

**CULVER CITY COIN CLUB (CCCC)** - Meets 2nd Thursday, 8:00 p.m., Veteran's Memorial Building, Urupan Room, Culver and Overland, Culver City; Mailing Address: (Information to be added)

**FONTANA UNITED NUMISMATISTS (FUN) \*** - Meets 2nd Friday, 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 9260 Mango Ave. (& Randall), Fontana; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 71, Fontana, CA 92335.

**GLENDALE COIN CLUB (GCC)** - Meets 2nd Friday, 7:30 p.m., CalFed, 401 N. Brand Blvd., Glendale; Mailing Address: Greg Burns, 327 Delaware Road, Burbank, CA 91504; E-mail: Gburns@thevine.net

**GREATER ORANGE COUNTY COIN CLUB (GOCCC)** - Meets 2nd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., Costa Mesa Neighborhood Community Center, Fairview Room, 1845 Park, Costa Mesa; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2335, Huntington Beach, CA 92647; E-mail: beedon@earthlink.net



**HEARTLAND COIN CLUB (HCC)** - Meets 3rd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., Bostonia Park Recreation Building, 1049 Bostonia St., El Cajon; Mailing Address: Jack Hook, 7603 Lawford Place, Lemon Grove, CA 91945.

**HEMET NUMISMATISTS (HN)** - Meets 3rd Wednesday, 12:00 Noon, Provident Savings Bank, 1600 Florida Avenue (Northwest Corner Giard and Florida), Hemet; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3082, Hemet, CA 92546.

**ISRAEL NUMISMATIC SOCIETY/ISRAEL COIN CLUB OF LOS ANGELES (INSICCLA)** - Meets 3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Westside Jewish Community Center - Founders Room, 5870 W. Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3637, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359.

**LEISURE WORLD COIN CLUB (LWCC)** - Meets 2nd Wednesday, 1:30 p.m., Clubhouse No. 3, Room 2, Seal Beach Leisure World; Mailing Address: Richard Precker, 13240 Twin Hills Drive, #44F, Seal Beach, CA 90740.

**LITTON COIN CLUB (LCC)** - Meets 2nd Friday, 7:30 p.m., 5500 Canoga Avenue, Building 30, APD Engineering Conference Room, Woodland Hills; Mailing Address: Walt Wegner, Box 521, Woodland Hills, CA 91365; E-mail: [wlwegner@msn.com](mailto:wlwegner@msn.com)

**LONG BEACH COIN CLUB (LBCC)** - Meets 1st Monday, 7:30 p.m., Los Altos United Methodist Church, 5950 East Willow St., Long Beach; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 8101, Long Beach, CA 90808.

**LOS ANGELES COIN CLUB (LACC)** - Meets 1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Westside Jewish Community Center - Founders Room, 5870 W. Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3637, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359.

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION (NCNA)** - Meets in annual convention each July, presently in Concord, CA, Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4104, Vallejo, CA 94590-0410.

**OCEANSIDE CARLSBAD COIN CLUB (OCCC)** - Meets 2nd Friday, 7:30 p.m., Garrison School, 333 Garrison Ave., Oceanside; Mailing Address: 2307 Dunstan Road, Oceanside, CA 92054.

**REDLANDS COIN CLUB (RCC)** - Meets 2nd Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Smiley Library, 125 W. Vine St., Redlands; Mailing Address: Kay Edgerton Lenker, P.O. Box 6909, San Diego, CA 92166.

**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY COIN CLUB (SBCCC)** - Meets 3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m. (except November which is 1st Thursday), San Bernardino County Museum, Fisk Auditorium (1-10 & California Street to Museum), 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 295, Patton, CA 92369.

**SAN DIEGO NUMISMATIC SOCIETY (SDNS)** - Meets 1st Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., North Park Adult Center, 2719 Howard St., San Diego; Mailing address: Kay Edgerton Lenker, P.O. Box 6909, San Diego, CA 92166.

**SANTA ANA COIN CLUB (SACC)** - Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 7:30 p.m., Tustin Senior Center, 200 South "C" St., Tustin; Mailing Address: Roy Iwata, P.O. Box 2449, Seal Beach, CA 90740.

**SANTA BARBARA COIN CLUB (SBCC)** - Meets 4th Monday (except July and December), 7:30 p.m., MacKenzie Park, Recreation Room, Las Positas Road at McCaw Ave., Santa Barbara; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 6205, Santa Barbara, CA 93160.

**SANTA MARIA COIN CLUB (SMCC)** - Meets 3rd Wednesday, 7:00 p.m., Mussel Senior Center, 510 E. Park Ave., Santa Maria; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 7186, Santa Maria, CA 93456.

**SACRAMENTO VALLEY COIN CLUB (SVCC)** - Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays, 5026 Don Julio Blvd., North Highlands; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 160122, Sacramento, CA 95816.

**THE DOWNEY NUMISMATISTS (TDN)** - Meets 4th Monday, 7:30 p.m., Downey Retirement Center, 11500 Dolan Ave., Downey; Mailing Address: Albertus Hoogeveen, P.O. Box 222, Downey, CA 90241.

**THE LINCOLN CENT SOCIETY (LCS)** - Mailing Address: P.O. Box 113, Winfield, IL 60190.

**TUSTIN COIN CLUB (TCC)** - Meets 1st Friday, 7:30 p.m., Tustin Senior Center, 200 South "C" Street, Tustin; Mailing Address: Roy Iwata, P.O. Box 2449, Seal Beach, CA 90740.

**UPLAND COIN CLUB (UCC)** - Meets 3rd Saturday, 8:00 p.m., Magnolia Recreation Center, 651 W. 15th Street, Upland; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1746, Upland, CA 91785.

**VENTURA COUNTY COIN CLUB (VCCC)** - Meets 2nd Thursday, 7:30 p.m., (Looking for a meeting place.), Ventura; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 3263, Ventura, CA 93003.

**VERDUGO HILLS COIN CLUB (VHCC)** - Meets 2nd Monday, 7:15 p.m., California Federal Bank, 2350 Honolulu Ave., Montrose; Mailing Address: P.O. Box 26, Tujunga, CA 91043.

**WEST VALLEY COIN CLUB (WVCC)** - Meets 3rd Sunday, 2:00 p.m., The Town Hall, 16919 San Fernando Mission Blvd., Granada Hills, Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4159, Panorama City, CA 91412.

**WHITTIER COIN CLUB (WCC)** - Meets 2nd Friday, 7:30 p.m., Casa Whittier Retirement Home, (number?) Jordan Ave., Whittier, Mailing Address: 540 Teakwood Ave., La Habra, CA 90605.

\* Changed since last issue.

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